



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Dallas Veterans Day Parade Enlistment Ceremony
Dallas City Hall Plaza
Admiral Patrick M. Walsh
Thursday November 11, 2010**

Today is an important day in the lives of the 120 young men and women who stand before us...and it is an important day of remembrance in the history of our nation.

The setting for our ceremony is poignant, notable, and especially fitting as we celebrate the youthful potential and promise found in our candidates for enlistment...and then shift our attention to remember, with pride, the deeds, the commitment, and the sacrifice of Veterans everywhere.

For those in ranks...whether you realize it, sense it, or recognize it completely, you are about to enter into a great circle of community, history, and tradition where one generation cares for and nurtures the next. The men and women whom we honor today have done that for us; now it is our charge...to carry their example of service and leadership forward for those in our trust.

Today, we applaud you...and what you and your family have accomplished together over the course of your lifetime to prepare you for this unique and gratifying opportunity...and now most importantly, we want to express our respect and our personal gratitude...for the commitment that you are about to undertake and the work that you are about to do.

While you have had to prepare yourself mentally, physically, and academically to be here today...now...you must take one more important step before you can join our ranks. Now you must make a pledge...you must take a public oath, a promise, to our country, our constitution, and all its citizens.

The 70 words in the oath of enlistment...are words passed from one generation to the next...authored by those who recognized that laws alone were not enough to guide the lives of those entrusted with positions of great responsibility in our country. ...those words bind all of us who serve...together.

John Adams reminded us that, “your oath is a sacred obligation...because your words are ample pledge for your sincerity and devotion to our country.”

Those candidates:

Who want to be part of a winning team

Who want the honor to serve

Who want to be leaders

And who are ready to wear the uniform and stand proudly for all that America and the Great State of Texas represents-

RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND

Do you solemnly swear

That you will support and defend

The constitution of the United States

Against all enemies foreign and domestic

That you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same

And that you will obey the orders

Of the President of the United States

And the orders of the officers appointed over you

According to regulations

And the Uniform Code of Military Justice

So help you God?

CONGRATULATIONS!